

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forwarding a web address to another web address in a network comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI);

determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator;

combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; and

redirecting the request to the second web address.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, said determining step further comprising:
determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed; and
indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, said determining step further comprising:
directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, said determining step further comprising:
searching a data file for the forwarding URL.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of:

extracting forwarding information from a customer database; and storing the forwarding information in the data file.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the customer database includes a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, said redirecting step further comprising:
sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the string is sent to the user using a hypertext transfer protocol (http) location command.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request is supplied by a user.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for forwarding a web address to another web address, the method comprising:

receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI);

determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator;

combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; and

redirecting the request to the second web address.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said determining step further comprising:

determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed; and
indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, said determining step further comprising:

directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said determining step further comprising:

searching a data file for the forwarding URL.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of:

extracting forwarding information from a customer database; and
storing the forwarding information in the data file.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the customer database includes a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said redirecting step further comprising:

sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the string is sent to the user using a hypertext transfer protocol (http) location command.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the request is supplied by a user.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for forwarding a web address to another web address,

comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor responsive to the program instructions to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), determine a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator, combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for forwarding a web address to another web address, comprising:

a host computer operable to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), search a data file for a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator, combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address;

a customer database storing forwarding information; and

a data generator operable to extract forwarding information from the customer database and store the forwarding information in the data file.

25. (Canceled)